

### **ECHOES**

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### ON THE COVER

YHC senior Hannah Walker of Cumming, Georgia, stands in front of the Eiffel Tower on a clear Paris day this past summer. (Photo submitted by Walker)

#### CONTENTS

3	FROM	THF	<b>PRFS</b>	INFNT	
u	I IVUIVI	1111	LIVEU	IULIVI	

IN THE KNOW 4

COMMENCEMENT 2019

**ACADEMIC UPDATES** 

A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE 11

YHC CELEBRATES ALUMNI 16 WEEKEND 2019

17 2019 ALUMNI AWARDS

YHC ALUMS GATHER AT SWEETWATER 18

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS 19

HOMECOMING 2019 20

YHC ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME 21 INDUCTS SIX NEW MEMBERS

**ATHLETICS** 22

24 GIVING

28 **CLASS NOTES** 



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Dear friends,

Thank you for your interest in Young Harris College. Whether you're a prospective student, current student, alumnus/alumna, faculty member, staff member or friend of the College, we're glad you're taking a moment to catch up on all things YHC.

This edition of Echoes will recap important events in the life of our College—from Commencement to the Clay Dotson Open to Alumni Weekend and more. It will also bring you up to speed on exciting developments in Academics and Athletics. You'll have an opportunity to live vicariously through three of our students who experienced study abroad travel this past summer. You can celebrate the accomplishments of our student-athletes and the retirements of five beloved faculty and staff

members. And, you can see what some of our alumni have been up to in the Class Notes section.

In addition to looking back at some milestone moments, we invite you to join us in looking forward to YHC's future. We're dedicated to cross-training our students by combining the best aspects of a liberal arts curriculum with professional studies that will prepare them for success in the classroom and beyond. I'm especially excited about YHC's partnership with Meridian Resources, which provides our students with professional development and coaching to prepare them with the skills they need to excel in their careers. You can read more about this partnership on page 10.

Preparing our students for purposeful, successful lives is a fundamental part of our mission. Our goal requires commitment from all stakeholders—from our Board to our employees, alumni, donors and friends. We invite you to get involved: follow YHC on our social media channels, attend an event on campus, encourage your friends to visit the College, or make a donation to support student scholarships. YHC has so much to offer students, our community and our region, and we want you to help us spread the word!

Sincerely,

Drew L. Van Horn, Ph.D.

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President

Young Harris College



### Welcome YHC's New Board of Trustee Members



**Dave Brown** is the president of eDemand, Inc., which provides cybersecurity and compliance technology for business and government entities. He has a long track record of founding technology start-up companies and spent time at America Online, where he developed the AOL Instant Messaging (AIM) application.

Brown specializes in high-volume, mission-critical transaction processing systems (including fare collection systems), IT security, risk management, PCI Compliance and IT vendor management for enterprises. Over his

career, he has served in senior management roles for large multi-national corporations, including SITA, DHL, NetExpress, Control Video Corporation and Digital Broadcasting Corporation.

Brown holds bachelor's and master's degrees, as well as certifications for Project Management Professional from the Project Management Institute, Certified Information Security Manager from ISACA, PCI Professional from PCI-SSC, and Six Sigma Green Belt.

Within the YHC Board of Trustees, Brown is serving on the Academic Affairs Committee and Properties Committee.



**Judge Steve C. Jones** has served as a federal judge for the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia since 2011. He presides over cases that involve the U.S. government, the U.S. Constitution, federal laws, controversies between citizens of different states and other

Prior to his nomination to the U.S. District Court, Jones served as a superior court judge in Clarke and Oconee counties for 16 years. In this role, he presided over civil

and criminal cases as well as a substance abuse treatment program. Jones served as an Athens-Clarke County municipal court judge (1992–1995), assistant district attorney for the Western Judicial Circuit (1987–1991), and director of the Athens Child Support Recovery Unit (1978–1985).

He graduated from the University of Georgia with a bachelor's degree in management and received his juris doctorate from the UGA School of Law.

Within the YHC Board of Trustees, Jones is serving on the Trusteeship, Governance and Compensation Committee, and the Academic Affairs Committee.

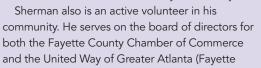
Charlotte Sparks McCloskey, '64, is a retired educator and social worker. As an active community leader and volunteer in Big Canoe, Georgia, she serves with No One Alone, Broyle's Mission Conference, Leadership Big Canoe, Women's Guild, Chapel Fund and more. For her community service, McCloskey was honored as the 2008 Big Canoe Woman of the Year.

At Young Harris College, she established the Charlotte S. McCloskey Endowed Scholarship Fund and previously served as president of the YHC Alumni Association.

She holds an associate's degree from YHC, a bachelor's degree in sociology from UGA and a master's degree in elementary and middle grades education from the University of North Georgia.

Within the YHC Board of Trustees, McCloskey is serving on the Enrollment Management Committee and the Student Affairs Committee.

**Brandon S. Sherman** serves as vice president and branch manager at Fidelity Bank in Fayetteville, Georgia. His more than 23 years of financial services expertise in leadership, branch management and commercial lending helps him thrive as a trusted business advisor in and around Fayette County.



County). He is part of Rotary International and volunteers with Midwest Food Bank. Sherman also is active in the school council for Whitewater High School and volunteers with the Fayette County Board of Education for various school functions.

Sherman holds a bachelor's degree in Christian ministries with a minor in human relations from Point University.

Within the YHC Board of Trustees, Sherman is serving on the Enrollment Management Committee and the Student Affairs Committee



### **YHC Thanks Former Trustee Jim Williams**

The College is grateful to James "Jim" E. Williams for his six years of service on the YHC Board of Trustees (2013-2019). Williams was unanimously elected to the board in 2013 and served with loyalty and dedication. His service included roles



on a variety of committees, including the Academic Affairs, Athletics, Distinctive Student Experience and Trusteeship Committees. Williams gave unselfishly of his time, talents and resources while serving as a YHC Trustee, and he provided keen insight and generous friendship to his fellow board members.

## Trustee Spotlight

Congratulations to YHC Trustee René M. Diaz, who recently earned a Distinguished Alumni Award from his alma mater, Georgia State University. As president and CEO of The Diaz Group, LLC, Diaz leads one of the largest and most prominent Hispanic food distributors in the United States. He founded Diaz Foods in



1980 to serve Atlanta's growing need for an ethnic food distributor and has led its expansion to a management group that owns four additional companies—Diaz Produce, Tortillas de Casa, La Cena Fine Foods, LLC and EDUA Holdings—with revenues exceeding \$200 million. Recognized locally and nationally as a leading Hispanic entrepreneur, Diaz serves as a board member of numerous organizations.

### YHC Alumnus Authors Book About the College

Glen Hunter, '64, wrote a book called "One Mountaintop Experience After Another: A Half-Century Young Harris College Retrospective." Copies from the second printing are available for the upcoming holiday season.

The book represents 13 years of work and input from more than 500 people associated with the College. Its large size and photo galleries make the book an ideal coffee-table display. The 232 pages include remembrances and profiles of students, alumni and other members of the YHC family like Dr. Raymond Cook, '38, Byron Herbert Reece, '40, Ronnie Milsap, '64, and others.

The book is \$50, and it may be purchased either from Glen Hunter at (229) 524-6153 or from Father & Son Publishing, Inc., in Tallahassee, Florida at (800) 741-2712.

### Welcome 2019-2020 Alumni Association Board Members

The Young Harris College Alumni Association is led by a board made up of alumni representing a wide range of generations. Below are the Alumni Association Board Members for 2019-2020:



Phil DeMore, '63, President

Leigh Burns, '91

Steve Davenport, '85

Frank Erwin, '61

Clayton Franklin, '08

David Green, '68

David Haygood, '92

Mark Hellman, '88

Amy Wood Huckaby, '62

Michael Ledford, '67

Marvin McArthur, '65

Paula Mitchell McClung, '61 Elizabeth Fincher Nevil, '57 David Nipper, '91 Kenneth Parker, '88 Katie Dyer Pencheva, '11 Jane Harrell Roberts, '70 Holly Gunter Royston, '01 Ruth Woolley Sapp, '67 Amanda Nolen Seals, '94 Steven Sharp, '65 John Sillay, '75 Debra Robarts Smith, '81 Harriett Matthews Ward, '70 Gloria Swygert Westberry, '62 Jessie Collins Wood, '05

### Congrats, YHC Retirees!

### Louisa Franklin | 40 years | Professor of English and Director of the Academic Success Center

"Louisa was the Academic Dean when I was hired at YHC. My previous experience had been at large universities, and my first year, she mentored me and helped me to adjust to teaching at YHC. I especially admired her infectious enthusiasm for teaching and genuine concern for her students. She taught with passion and compassion that was never feigned, and she always got the best out of her students. She embodied the teaching-centered focus of YHC."

 Dr. Mark Rollins, Professor of English and Dean of the Division of Humanities



#### Lynne Grady | 25 years | Counselor

"I had the privilege of working with Lynne for eight years. Not only was she an awesome co-worker, but she became a dear friend. She always went above and beyond and gave her best to YHC students. Congratulations, friend! Now enjoy that deck, lazy Monday mornings and no Friday afternoon commute!"

Sandy McClure, Administrative Assistant to Young Harris
 College's offices of Student Counseling & Success Center



### David Brackin | 24 years | Associate Professor of Psychology

"During his time at YHC, David Brackin taught countless sections of psychology and sociology to students. He could always be relied on to pick up extra classes, often at the very last minute, and he did so with good humor and grace. While usually fairly quiet, David's wry sense of humor was always entertaining. Young Harris College is a better place for his time here, and I hope he and Beth have a long and healthy retirement."

- Dr. Lee March, Professor and Harland Chair of Political Science



#### Pete Herrmann | 9 years | Head Coach for Men's Basketball

"I always felt Pete Herrmann was the right coach to restart the men's basketball program at YHC after it had been discontinued for 40 years. Pete's name brought immediate credibility in the basketball world and told everyone YHC was serious about having a winning men's basketball program. Pete had a tremendous work ethic and was always very dedicated, but his passion for the game and the student-athletes was what made him special for the program and YHC."

- Randy Dunn, Director of Athletics Fundraising



#### **Bill Hyndman** | 8 years | Instructor of Computer Science

"Dr. Bill Hyndman taught our students with great knowledge and passion and was very well-liked by all. He kept the computer course updated to best prepare students for the future. His upbeat nature and willingness to help made him a great colleague and valued friend."

 Dr. Linda Jones, Associate Professor of Biology and Dean of the Division of Mathematics, Science & Technology



# OOMMENCEMENT 2019













TOP The Recreation and Fitness Center was full for the special occasion. MIDDLE ROW Dr. Drew L. Van Horn (middle) presents Leslie Ballew, '19, and Khalid Johnson, '19, with the Sullivan Awards. ■ Leslie Ballew, '19, Rev. Blair Tolbert, Paxton Spessard, '19, and Lexi Hooper, '19, all spoke at the Commencement Ceremony. ■ Dr. Drew L. Van Horn (middle) presents Mayra Leyva, '19, and Bakari Garvin, '19, with the Young Harris Spirit Award.

BOTTOM ROW Communication studies majors prepare to turn their tassels. ■ Former First Lady of Georgia Shirley Miller, '54, stands with Alejandro Lemus-Gomez, '19, who received the Zell B. Miller, '51, Leadership Award.

HE CLASS OF 2019 played a much larger role in this year's Commencement Ceremony, held on Saturday, May 11, with graduating seniors leading several portions of it.

Paxton Spessard, an outdoor leadership major, delivered the commencement address. He urged his classmates to leverage the gift of the YHC experience to improve their communities.

"Go forth, fail forward, default to kindness, seek to understand, be authentic, live boldly and follow your bliss. Those may sound like simple statements, but I think it takes a lifetime to truly comprehend their weight," Spessard said to the graduates. "If we strive to conduct ourselves in this manner and move closer to these elusive ideals, I'm confident that the ultimate aims of this institution — the telos of Young Harris College — will become manifest. Our lives will be brimming with purpose and passion and adventure. And may our hearts be forever Mountain Lion purple."

Interdisciplinary studies major Leslie Ballew delivered the invocation, and Lexi Hooper, a communication studies major and 2018-2019 president of the Student Government Association, provided greetings from the student body. Graduating seniors also performed vocal selections for the occasion.

Rev. Dr. Don A. Harp, '61, received an honorary doctorate of humane letters, as well as the Young Harris College Medallion, which is the highest honor bestowed by Young Harris College to alumni and friends who have made extraordinary contributions to the College. In addition, Harp delivered the address to graduates on Friday evening at the Baccalaureate Service.

Harp has been instrumental in the growth of the College since becoming a trustee in 1989. He currently serves as minister emeritus at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church in Atlanta and has served in the North Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church for more than 45 years.

Watch the event at youtube.com/YoungHarrisCollege.

### YHC PROVOST DR. JASON PIERCE PRESENTED SPECIAL AWARDS TO:

- Paxton Spessard of Cumming, Georgia, received the Dr. Charles
  R. Clegg Outstanding Scholar Award, which was named in
  memory of a beloved past president of the College and recognizes
  graduating seniors with the overall highest grade point average.
- Khalid Johnson of Decatur, Georgia, and Leslie Ballew of Ball
  Ground, Georgia, received the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award
  and Mary Mildred Sullivan Award, respectively. These awards
  recognize a male and female senior for their nobility of character
  and dedication to service.
- Alejandro Lemus-Gomez of Young Harris, Georgia, received the Zell B. Miller Leadership Award for significant contributions to campus life at YHC as an outstanding leader and role model.
- Mayra Leyva of Athens, Georgia, and Bakari Garvin of College Park, Georgia, both received the Young Harris Spirit Award, which recognizes students who best demonstrate outstanding levels of personal integrity, friendliness and engagement with the campus community.

This year, graduating seniors were unable to participate in Thursday's ceremonial hike to the top of Brasstown Bald due to rain, but the Picnic & Vespers Service still took place, albeit indoors.

After 195 newly minted graduates turned their tassels, President Van Horn gave them a final charge:

"There are tremendous voices, wonderful actors, talented athletes, activists, innovative thinkers, counselors and leaders in this class. You have minds and hearts as big as the mountains that surround this campus, and you're ready to go empower and inspire. You can accomplish anything you set your mind to. While uncertainty can be scary, do not let fear gain a foothold in your life. Remember that the world that you will tend belongs to something bigger than any human."

**BELOW** Graduates gathered for a group photo. President Dr. Drew L. Van Horn (right) presented Rev. Dr. Don A. Harp, '61, with the Young Harris College Medallion.





# **ACADEMIC UPDATES**

### YHC Introduces Two New Majors and a New Minor

The Department of Business and Public Policy at Young Harris College now offers two new majors in **marketing** and **finance**, as well as a minor in **financial planning**.

The marketing major prepares graduates for careers in advertising and promotion, marketing management, and marketing analytics. Studies culminate in a Bachelor of Science in Marketing, offering opportunities for graduates to pursue one of the largest career opening segments in business.

In 2018, the median pay for marketing careers was \$132,620, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics expects this industry to grow 10 percent between 2016 and 2026.

Marketing students take courses in marketing principles, consumer behavior, advertising and brand promotion, and marketing analytics. YHC's focused marketing curriculum is combined with core business courses in management, economics, finance and business ethics to round out graduates' readiness for marketing management positions.

The objectives of the **finance major** are to develop students'

skills in finance, accounting and financial decision-making. Students learn how to organize, analyze, and interpret numerical and financial data, as well as how to explain complex financial transactions and data to others. These skills are developed through classes in economics, accounting and financial management.

The objectives of the **minor in financial planning** are to develop the capability of students to provide clients with sound financial advice. Financial planners counsel clients in the areas of retirement and estate planning, and they create personal investing strategies. Additionally, financial planners assist clients with insurance planning and tax planning.

YHC's degree programs in the Department of Business and Public Policy provide graduates with high-paying career choices in industries that have projected employment growth rates much faster than the national average for other occupations. These three new programs set YHC apart as an institution focused on translating education into successful professional careers.





# YHC/UGA 3+2

### YHC Teams Up with UGA to Offer a New Engineering Program

Young Harris College and the University of Georgia have entered into an exciting agreement through which students can earn a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics at YHC and a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering at UGA. Students can complete these programs through three years of study at YHC and two years of study at UGA.

YHC students have expressed interest in engineering, and this innovative program provides a pathway for them to pursue a mechanical engineering career. Classes for the YHC/UGA 3+2 Engineering Dual Degree Program started this fall.

# MAT Q&A

# Preparing the Next Generation of Teachers

The previous edition of Echoes featured Young Harris College's first-ever master's program, the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) with concentrations in English, mathematics, biology and history. For this edition, Echoes caught up with MAT Coordinator Dr. George Boggs for an update on the program.

### First off, tell us about yourself and your role as MAT coordinator.

I have been interested in teacher development throughout my teaching career. I personally was mentored by dedicated, lifelong learners who put their students above their own interests. I came to YHC excited about the MAT program, its mission to support this particular population of prospective teachers, and the subject areas in which we concentrate. I am a lifelong learner myself, and one of my greatest joys is learning together with our students.

As the MAT coordinator, I love the opportunity to support students as they create a career for themselves around helping children learn. In many cases, this process involves learning to support others who have had vastly different life and learning experiences. This process of self-discovery and discovery of the work of teaching is captivating for me, and it makes my job as the MAT coordinator deeply satisfying.

### Tell us about the current MAT students.

Many of these students knew they wanted to teach throughout their lives, but others came to teaching after pursuing other life experiences. YHC's MAT program seeks to support students who pursued college degrees in areas outside education but discovered an interest in teaching. Our students are eager learners who bring a great deal and variety of experiences to their coursework.

For fall 2019, we are combining our initial spring and summer cohorts. We have 12 students enrolled. Of those, four are practicing teachers and three received their undergraduate degrees at YHC.

#### How are online and in-person classes going?

Students join us from as far away as Savannah and as close as Hiawassee. Two students attend classes face to face, while others join via video. Students complete field work in local schools as part of their progression toward initial certification in English, mathematics, biology or history.

### How are the student teaching experiences going?

Our student-teachers are quickly making names for themselves and Young Harris College in schools around Georgia. Students are working in middle and high schools in Chatham, Cobb, Fannin, Floyd, Forsyth, Gilmer, Murray, Paulding, Polk, Rockdale and Towns counties.

For more information on YHC's MAT program, please visit yhc.edu/mat.



# REAL WORLD READY

# YHC Partners with Meridian Resources to OFFER STUDENTS A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

Imagine if professional development was a core component of a college curriculum. How would that impact the world of work once students graduated?

This is the question President Van Horn posed to professional career management firm Meridian Resources. For more than 20 years, Meridian Resources has provided professional development and coaching services for businesses located all over the country. It also has partnered with universities to support graduate programs with career search and career management needs. But Meridian has never created a professional development program for undergraduates—until now. Young Harris College students now have the opportunity to benefit from a customized program that Meridian created in partnership with YHC.

"YHC is addressing what has become a crisis in the business world," said Angie Tinnell, president of Meridian Resources. "Many students are entering the workforce without the soft skills needed to succeed. YHC is bringing career preparation to the forefront of the college experience."

Meridian Resources developed an exclusive curriculum of four modules designed to be taken over the course of a student's college career. When students complete the modules, they will receive an Agile Professional Certificate (note, this certification is different from those provided in the Information Technology industry).

The modules are delivered virtually through webinars and engaging course

- 1 The Year One module is called "Me" and focuses on emotional agility.
  Topics include emotional intelligence, self-awareness and self-regulation.
  Students will practice mindfulness and stress management, evaluate their values, identify their strengths, and learn social media strategies for reputation management.
- The Year Two module is called "We" and focuses on conversational agility. Students will take the DISC profile to learn more about their personality and communication style, as well as how to identify others' communication styles. Many aspects of communication, including verbal and non-verbal communication, will be evaluated. The importance of mindfulness and stress management will continue to be emphasized.
- The Year Three module is called "Lead" and focuses on leadership agility. Students will develop essential skills for leading themselves and others. They will discuss questions such as "How do you gain respect? Build trust? Manage feedback?" Additionally, students will prepare for internship and job searches.
- 4 The Year Four module is called "Achieve" and focuses on career agility. Students will learn how to bring their values into their career searches. They will also receive instruction and support on how to manage their careers, including career choices and transitions. Resources like résumé and LinkedIn profile templates will be available, and students will have the opportunity to participate in practice interviews and receive coaching feedback.

content accessed online. Students will commit an hour or less per week to participate during the academic year.

Freshmen students at YHC will be able to start with the Year One module, while sophomore students will be able to complete Year One and Year Two modules to catch up. Junior and senior students will be able to jump in at Year Three and Year Four modules, and Meridian Resources is working on options for them to be able to earn certification.

YHC's first commitment is to rolling out the program for existing students. Eventually, the College is aiming to provide these courses to alumni, as well, but the four-year timeframe will be shorter.

"This curriculum was developed in conjunction with YHC and specifically for YHC," said Tinnell. "The combination of a YHC degree and this career readiness program will give students a competitive advantage when they enter the job market."







BY COLEMAN WOOD
(Photos submitted by Stephanie Girle, Hannah Walker and Justin Mason)

When you picture college students on summer break, you may think of them relaxing by a pool or working a part-time job to make extra money for the upcoming school year. What may not come to mind are students wandering through Italian museums or traveling by boat down the Thames River.

This past summer, dozens of students traded the rolling hills of Young Harris for tours through Europe's most ancient cities and classrooms in a Victorian manor. For many of them, their trips were the culmination of intensive coursework learning about things such as music history and biology.

Echoes caught up with three of these students, fresh off their study abroad experiences, to learn more about how these trips enriched their educations.

Senior Stephanie Girle stands at the Cliffs of Dover in England this past summer.

SENIOR FROM CANTON, GEORGIA

MAJOR: BIOLOGY

MINOR: SUSTAINABILITY





### What made you decide to study abroad?

I have always wanted to study abroad because I have had several friends and family members study abroad, and they have had great experiences. In my opinion, it's a good way to experience another culture.

### What made you decide to go to the United Kingdom?

It was a combination of all the country's history as well as my own history. My family on my mom's side came to the United States from the U.K. in the 1700s.

### What did you study?

Our class, Biology in Britain, was completed at YHC during the spring semester. We read about major scientific discoveries that took place in Britain, and we then traveled there after the completion of the class to see several of the things we had studied.

We read scientific journals about Dolly, the first cloned sheep, and then were able to see her at the National Museum of Scotland. We learned how Watson and Crick discovered the structure of DNA, and while in Cambridge, England, we ate lunch at the Eagle Pub, where Watson and Crick dined six days a week and announced that they had discovered "the secret to life."

My favorite place we went to was the Down House, where Charles Darwin lived. Being a biology major, you learn a lot about Darwin, so it was amazing to see his home where he wrote "On the Origin of Species." The house itself was beautiful, and the gardens were amazing, as well.

While at Kew Gardens, we were able to see some of the medicinal plants we had studied in class, along with the 30,000 species of living plants that are in the gardens. The last place we went was the Eden Project in Cornwall. The Eden Project used to be a china clay mine, which was then turned into two bio domes and consists of a tropical rainforest and Mediterranean dome.

### What did you do in your free time?

We went to Kensington Palace, Edinburgh Castle, The London Eye, Tower Bridge, Dover Castle, The White Cliffs of Dover and hiked Arthur's Seat.

# What was your most memorable experience from the trip?

While we were in London, we had one free day, and several of us took the train to Dover. There, we toured Dover Castle and the tunnels that were used during World War II. We then went on a hike that took us onto the cliffs on the ocean. It was the most amazing view I have seen in my life, and you could see the coast of France in the distance, since we were only 20 miles away.

**LEFT** Stephanie Girle poses in front of Buckingham Palace in London. ■ Hannah David, Grace Isakson, Laura Grace Holton and Stephanie Girle visit Edinburgh Castle in Scotland.



SENIOR FROM CUMMING, GEORGIA MAJOR: ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE MINORS: CHEMISTRY AND BIOLOGY

### What made you decide to study abroad?

I love to travel and learn about different cultures, and I wanted to see what education was like outside of the States.

### Where did you travel, and what did you study?

I traveled to Harlaxton College in Grantham, England, through the Woodward Scholarship and took a class called Living World Religions.

### What was your biggest takeaway from the class?

The professor said at the beginning of the class that the main goal was for us to get a better understanding of religions other than our own so that we could be better world citizens and see where people were coming from, in regards to their religions. We covered Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Zoroastrianism and Sikhism. We also went to religious sites, including a Sikh gurdwara, a Hindu temple and an Islamic mosque. We talked to each place's religious leader and asked them questions. My biggest takeaway is if you're uncertain about someone's religious preferences, it's best to actually ask them, because they're going to be more willing to start a dialogue. That's way better than assuming the wrong things about someone.

### What did you do in your free time?

The school provided weekend excursions to different European cities, so I traveled throughout Spain, England, Scotland, France and Italy.

Aguilas, Spain, was the first city I went to. I visited there first because a friend who graduated from YHC a few years ago teaches English there. So I stayed with her and visited the city. I really liked it because it was smaller, but it had a ton of historical things, including a castle that I got the chance to visit. There were also a lot of places to hike, and Aguilas had more of a local vibe rather than big-city feel.

Paris was my favorite city that I visited. I was there for four days and saw a ton, including going to a World Cup game, which has been on my bucket list.

We also went to Edinburgh, Scotland, and did a lot of Harry Potter-related things. My favorite parts were seeing the Elephant House, one of the cafés where J.K. Rowling wrote the Harry Potter books. We also went to a graveyard with headstones that inspired character names in the books.

# What was your most memorable experience from the trip?

The most memorable experience from the trip was attending the World Cup game while in Paris. While I was unable to see the U.S.A. play, I did watch China and South Africa play. It was something I will never forget and may not ever have the opportunity to see again.

If you're uncertain about someone's religious preferences, it's best to actually ask them, because they're going to be more willing to start a dialogue.



SENIOR FROM FAIRBURN, GEORGIA MAJOR: MUSIC

**ABOVE** Moon Hamilton and Justin Mason take a gondola ride in Venice, Italy. **RIGHT** Justin Mason enjoys visiting St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague, Czech Republic.

### What made you decide to study abroad?

I wanted to get an experience outside of the United States, specifically because I know it's different, and that was the real appeal to me—to see what all was different about these countries.

### What did you study?

Last year, I took two music history courses, one in the fall semester and one in the spring semester. Then, over the summer, we took a tour around Europe through a program funded by Friends of the Arts. We studied the development of Western classical music that we learned about in class. We traveled to Prague, Czech Republic; Salzburg and Vienna, Austria; and Venice, Italy. We visited museums and palaces, including Mozart's Birthplace Museum and the Doge's Palace, to learn more about these composers and musicians and to see the courts where they worked.

### What were some things you learned during your trip?

In one of the squares in Prague, there was a brass band playing on top of a cathedral. And we heard them playing pieces that we studied. We heard Tchaikovsky and Dvorák. They're really big on Tchaikovsky.

One thing I found very interesting is that the appreciation for classical music over there is very different. Music is funded by the government, so it's very cheap and easy to access for the public. We went to several concerts that were the equivalent of \$20, and tickets would have been \$200 in the U.S.

Another thing I thought was pretty cool is how the architecture of these cities reflects the music of the time. You would see Baroque and Gothic architecture, and you could see the parallels between it and the Baroque music of the same time. It's very intricate and "extra."

### Which city was your favorite and why?

I liked them all, but if I had to pick one, it would be Prague. The main reason is its history. It recently went from a Communist nation to a republic, and you could see how the remnants of the old country mixed with the new country. I really liked the people in Prague, as well as the Christian architecture and icons throughout the whole city.





**ABOVE** Justin Mason captures the Crown Prince Garden at Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna, Austria. **RIGHT** Ornate architecture and a grand piano take center stage in this photo of Brahms Hall in Vienna, Austria.

# What was your most memorable experience from the trip?

If you go on a music trip, a lot of people would expect you to say the music. But the music wasn't the biggest thing for me. The music wasn't new; we had already studied it. The thing that was brand new to me was the art and the architecture. That still holds a lot of weight for me. I've never seen anything like that ever before. The buildings are huge, and they're vastly decorated inside and out. It's a whole piece of artwork, and you don't get to see that in a lot of cities in the United States.



In one of the squares in Prague, there was a brass band playing on top of a cathedral. And we heard them playing pieces that we studied. We heard Tchaikovsky and Dvorák. They're really big on Tchaikovsky.





# YHC CELEBRATES ALUMNI WEEKEND 2019

YHC enjoyed hosting alumni and their families for Alumni Weekend on June 7-9.

During the Half-Century Club Dinner and annual Alumni Awards Ceremony on Friday, June 7, YHC recognized members of the class of 1969 in celebration of their 50th reunion. Additionally, the College honored five Alumni Award recipients.

On Saturday, June 8, YHC hosted "Biscuits and Local Honey," where attendees visited with YHC President Dr. Drew L. Van Horn, retired faculty and staff, and fellow alumni. Featured speakers included Dr. Paul Arnold, professor of biology and chair of the biology department; Dr. Clay Dotson, a former YHC history professor, academic dean and interim president; and Dr. Kaycee Cash, '15, a YHC alumna who recently graduated from the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine.

The Alumni Weekend Luncheon featured live music by the Border Hop Five. In spite of the rain, alumni and their families celebrated with an indoor tailgate, a service of remembrance, milestone reunion events and more. The weekend concluded with Sunday morning services at Sharp Memorial United Methodist Church.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Members of the class of 1969 were all smiles for their 50th reunion. ■ Dr. Kaycee Cash, '15, spoke at the "Biscuits and Local Honey" event. ■ Alumnae and current members of Gamma Psi sorority gather together for a moment of sisterhood. ■ Alumni and current students attended the Dorcas/SPAT Breakfast. ■ Members of the classes of 1978-1980 gathered to celebrate the class of 1979's 40th reunion.





BELOW Sam Gaston presents former First Lady of Georgia Shirley Miller, '54, with a plaque recognizing the SPAT Club's dedication of an on-campus swing to her and the late Gov. Zell Miller, '51. ■ Phi Delta and Phi Chi alumni reconnect during Alumni Weekend. ■ Mary Broadrick accepts the YHC Family of the Year Award from Dr. Drew L. Van Horn.







# ALUMNI AWARDS

MATTHEW KAMMERER, '11
Atlanta, Georgia
Young Alumni Achievement Award
Recognizes an alumnus or alumna
of Young Harris College who has
graduated within the past 15
years and has excelled in his or
her career



Recognizes an alumnus or alumna of Young Harris College who is a shining example of faithful service to the College and dedication to his or her community and family

DICK BURRELL, '47
Lilburn, Georgia
Distinguished Alumni Award for
Lifetime Career Achievement
Recognizes an alumnus or alumna
of Young Harris College who
has worked diligently to create
a successful career following a
successful foundation laid by

DR. CLAY DOTSON
Young Harris, Georgia
Nancy Louise Haynes Stephens
Sanderson Robertson
Outstanding Friend Award
Recognizes a friend of Young
Harris College who has dedicated

Young Harris College

Harris College who has dedicated his or her time, resources and energy to ensure a successful future for our alma mater

THE BROADRICK FAMILY Charlotte, North Carolina YHC Family of the Year Award Recognizes a family that has a long-standing relationship with the College Represented by Mary Broadrick

and John Moffitt











# YHC ALUMS GATHER AT SWEETWATER







YHC alumni living in Metro Atlanta gathered on Saturday, June 29, to enjoy a tour, drinks, dinner and networking at SweetWater Brewing Company.
Class of 2019 alumni were invited free of charge as a warm welcome from the YHC Alumni Association.

Many alums contributed to make this event possible, including Skip, '99, and Heather Moody Breeden, '99; Steve, '85, and Connie Eskew Davenport, '85; Ron, '76, and Lisa Hinson; Eric, '01, and Amy Edwards McConnell, '06; Nathan, '91, and Audrey Young Nipper, '91; Keith and Holly Gunter Royston, '01; Paul and Amanda Nolen Seals, '94; Brock and Debra Robarts Smith, '81; W.H. "Four Bucks" Smith, Jr., '73; Carl and Brandy Cochran Stegall, '96; Jack, '12, and Caitlin Tripp; and Matt Wilmer, '13.



# SAVE THE DATES FOR THESE UPCOMING YHC EVENTS

#### **NOVEMBER 2**

**Scholarship Luncheon** Young Harris College

'70s and '80s Decades Gathering Young Harris College

**Student-Alumni Networking Event**Young Harris College

Football Tailgate (SEC Football)
Young Harris College

NOVEMBER 9
YHC Athletics
Hall of Fame
Young Harris College

**DECEMBER 7 – 8**"Christmas at YHC"
Young Harris College

### FEBRUARY 15

"Hello, Dolly!" Fox Theatre, Atlanta, Georgia

#### **FEBRUARY 22**

Theatre Young Harris presents "Little Shop of Horrors" Young Harris College

#### FEBRUARY 29

Homecoming Basketball Game and Tailgate Young Harris College MARCH 7
The Big Prom
Young Harris College

MARCH 26 Macon Luncheon Mulberry Street United Methodist Church, Macon, Georgia

Macon Connection Ocmulgee Brewpub, Macon, Georgia

APRIL 2 Savannah Connection Vic's on the River, Savannah, Georgia

APRIL 28
Pops on the Plaza
Young Harris College

MAY 18 Clay Dotson Open Brasstown Valley Resort, Young Harris, Georgia

JUNE 5 – 7 Alumni Weekend Young Harris College

JUNE 20 Young Alumni Event Creature Comforts Brewing Co., Athens, Georgia

yhc.edu/alumni (706) 379-5336 | alumni@yhc.edu









# HOMECOMING 2019

On Saturday, Feb. 9, many Young Harris College alumni came back to campus to celebrate Homecoming.

The College hosted an all-alumni lunch in the Recreation and Fitness Center, which was followed by women's and men's basketball games vs. Georgia Southwestern. Receptions were held for former YHC basketball players, former Pep Band members and former cheerleaders.

Paxton Spessard and Anna Dyer were crowned the YHC Homecoming King and Queen during halftime of the men's basketball game.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Seniors Paxton Spessard, '19, and Anna Dyer, '19, are crowned Homecoming King and Queen. 
The Mountain Lions take on Georgia Southwestern during the Homecoming basketball game. 
Pamela Diokpara aims and shoots. 
Gabby Garner shows off her skills during a warmup. 
YHC alumni take center court during the festivities. 
Maggie Plott and the Mountain Lion cheerleaders rally the crowd during the women's and men's basketball games. 
Jane Erwin Meadows, '63, Randy Dunn and Susan Dunn visit during Homecoming.









# INDUGTS SIX NEW MEMBERS

On Nov. 2, 2018, YHC hosted a special ceremony and dinner in the Rollins Campus Center to honor the 2018 Athletics Hall of Fame inductees.

Inductees included Ladondra Johnson, '14; Jacky Jones; Niall McCabe, '14; Rick Robinson; Bryson Smith, '09; and Sam Stovall, '72.

Ladondra Johnson is from Athens, Georgia, and played basketball for the Mountain Lions. She now resides in Helsinki, Finland, where she plays basketball professionally.

Jacky Jones was inducted as a Friend of the College for his generous support of YHC Athletics. Jones resides in Hayesville, North Carolina, and is the co-owner and principal of Jacky W. Jones Ford, Inc.

Niall McCabe is from Dublin, Ireland. He played soccer for the Mountain Lions. After graduating from YHC, McCabe signed professionally with the Louisville City Football Club of the United Soccer League.

Rick Robinson is a former YHC head baseball coach. The Brevard, North Carolina, native coached YHC to 665 wins during his time in the Enchanted Valley. He now resides in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and serves as a full-time missionary for SCORE International.

Bryson Smith is from Athens, Georgia, and played baseball for the Mountain Lions and the University of Florida. He was drafted by the Cincinnati Reds, where he played six years at the AAA level. Smith currently resides in Brookhaven, Georgia, and works at Ethicon selling medical devices.

Sam Stovall played tennis for the Mountain Lions and West Georgia College (now the University of West Georgia). He was a tennis professional for several years before embarking on a teaching and coaching career that spanned 26 years.

Stovall resides in his hometown of Waycross, Georgia.

The YHC Athletics Hall of Fame was established in 2013 by the College's Board of Trustees to recognize individuals for their outstanding athletic achievements and distinguished service to YHC and the greater community. The inductees are nominated by alumni and friends for being an integral part of the College's celebrated history of athletics.

"Having an Athletics Hall of Fame at YHC means a tremendous amount to our alumni," said former Director of Athletics Randy Dunn. "There is a strong sense of pride in the players, coaches and performances of the past."

For more information on the 2018 YHC Athletics Hall of Fame, including a video and biographies of the inductees, please visit yhc.edu/athletics-hall-fame.





TOP ROW Ladondra Johnson, '14, was unable to attend the ceremony, but she was represented by her coach and two friends. Sam Stovall, '72, shows off his award alongside his wife and Dr. Van Horn.

BOTTOM ROW Jacky Jones was unable to attend the ceremony, but he was represented by members of his family. Niall McCabe, '14, plays soccer for the Louisville City Football Club of the United Soccer League. (Photo submitted by McCabe) Bryson Smith, '09, and Rick Robinson reminisce about their YHC baseball days.







# MOUNTAIN LIONS EXCEL IN NCAA TOURNAMENTS

YHC's athletics program had four teams softball, men's soccer, baseball and men's golf make their respective sport's NCAA tournament.

### SOFTBALL

The 2019 Mountain Lions (44-20) won a program-best 44 games and finished their campaign ranked No. 4 in the final National Fastpitch Coaches Association Division II Coaches Poll. They earned an invitation to their first-ever NCAA Division II Softball National Championship. The Mountain Lions, who were the No. 8 seed, finished as a national semifinalist. YHC captured its first-ever Southeast Region championship as a No. 5 seed, knocking off No. 1 seed University of North Georgia in the regionals and No. 3 seed Lincoln Memorial University in the Super Regionals, both on the road. The Mountain Lions, who won seven games in the postseason, also defeated top seeds LIU Post and West Chester at Nationals.

### **MEN'S SOCCER**

The men's soccer team (17-1-1) finished ranked No. 7 in the final 2018 United Soccer Coaches Division II Poll. The Mountain Lions captured their fourth Peach Belt regular-season and tournament titles, earning the No. 1 seed in the Southeast region of the NCAA Division II Tournament. It was the fourth trip for YHC to the NCAA Tournament. YHC's Mikie Rowe was named the United Soccer Coaches Division II National Player of the Year and Division II Men's National Scholar Player of the Year. Five players signed professional contracts.

### BASEBALL

YHC (36-21) tied a program record for wins in a season (36) on their way to capturing their first-ever Peach Belt Conference Baseball Tournament title. The Mountain Lions also earned a berth in the NCAA Division II Baseball Tournament for the first time in program history. The team ended the season ranked No. 29 in the final Collegiate Baseball NCAA Division II Coaches Poll. It was the first-ever national ranking in the program's NCAA era.

### **MEN'S GOLF**

The Mountain Lions, who were making their fourth consecutive trip to the NCAA Division II tournament, earned the No. 2 seed in the Southeast Region. YHC, which finished the season ranked 11th in the Bushnell Golfweek Coaches Poll, came in 10th place—the highest finish in program history—at the NCAA Division II South/Southeast Regional Championship.









# CROSS COUNTRY REINSTATED

### BROWN RETURNS AS HEAD COACH

Men's and women's cross country have been reinstated as varsity sports beginning this fall. Former Mountain Lion head coach Barry Brown will return to direct both programs.

"It is an unexplainable feeling to walk back on campus and feel as if you never left," said Brown. "YHC is truly an Enchanted Valley filled with special people. Stepping away for a couple of years has completely energized me to be back and better than ever. I have so much respect for Young Harris College and all that it stands for. I remember how exciting it was to be part of creating the first-ever cross country trail at YHC 13 years ago, and I can't wait to put competitive runners back on it."

Brown was the head coach of the YHC men's and women's cross country teams since their inception in 2006 until the teams were discontinued in 2016.

In his first stint as head coach, he led the Mountain Lions to three consecutive appearances in the NCAA Division II Southeast Regionals (2014, 2015, 2016). YHC has had three runners qualify for the NCAA Division II National Championship, with all three runners also winning a Peach Belt Conference (PBC) individual championship for the Mountain Lions.

Mountain Lion runners also picked up numerous conference accolades in the program's 10-year history. Two Mountain Lions have been named PBC Runner of the Year, 12 have been named PBC Runner of the Week, 12 have been named to the All-Peach Belt Team and eight have been named to all-region teams.

### RUSHTON ELEVATED TO DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

Young Harris College President Dr. Drew L. Van Horn announced that Jennifer Rushton will serve as director of athletics for the Mountain Lions. Rushton had served as interim director since Feb. 1, when Randy Dunn became the director of athletics fundraising for the College.

"YHC is fortunate to have Jennifer stepping up to become the director of athletics," said Dr. Van Horn. "The high quality of our athletics programming attracts top student-athletes to YHC. While here, student-athletes learn dedication, integrity, teamwork, and time and resource management. Jennifer is a great role model because she exemplifies all of these characteristics and more. I'm confident our athletics programming will thrive with her leadership."



Rushton joined the Mountain Lions in 2018 as the senior associate director of athletics for compliance/senior woman administrator.

"I am absolutely humbled and honored to serve as the next director of athletics at Young Harris College," said Rushton. "We have an exceptional group of coaches and student-athletes at YHC, and I am privileged to be able to work alongside them. We will continue to build this department with integrity, striving for a positive student-athlete experience, while challenging our student-athletes in the areas of academic success, competition and leadership."

Rushton came to the Enchanted Valley after serving a year as the associate director of student-athlete services at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Georgia.

### **HUFFMAN** NAMED WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COACH

Young Harris College hired Lindsey Huffman as the head women's basketball coach for the Mountain Lions.

Huffman comes to the Enchanted Valley after spending the past seven seasons as head coach of Reinhardt University in Waleska, Georgia. Huffman led the Eagles to a 137-88 record (.609 winning percentage) and three trips to the NAIA Division II National Tournament.

"I am so excited and grateful for the opportunity to be part of the Young Harris family and community," said Huffman. "I knew this was a special place as soon as I stepped foot on campus. I can't wait to get to work with the team, the faculty and all of the people who make Young Harris great. I want to thank Dr. Van Horn, Jennifer Rushton and the search committee for giving me the opportunity to lead the women's basketball program to new successes on and off the basketball court."

Huffman led Reinhardt to an Appalachian Athletic Conference Tournament title and a trip to nationals in her first season in 2013. She led the Eagles to back-to-back AAC regular-season titles and trips to the national tournament in 2017 and 2018. Huffman was named the AAC Coach of the Year in 2017 and 2018.

(Photo submitted by Huffman)



# THE CLASS OF 1969 WINS

# THE CLASS SCHOLARSHIP CHALLENGE!

THIS YEAR
ALUMNI RAISED

\$144,921.72!

WHEN COMBINED

WITH OUR BOARD OF

TRUSTEES MATCH OF

\$68.761.60

THAT TOTAL GREW TO

\$213,683.32!

# Class Scholarship Challenge Final Round-Up!

 $|*1\rangle^{\text{Class of}}$  1969 = \$20,675

#2 Class of 1965 = \$11,153

#3 Class of 1960 = \$8,963

#4 Class of 1962 = \$8,478

#5 Class of 1968 = \$7,980

29

Classes Surpassed the \$1,000 Goal!





Rankings reflect contributions given from July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

# A 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WITH A LASTING Jupact



The Class of 1969 set a goal of \$69,000 for their 50th Anniversary Gift. This money will go to the Young Harris Fund, which supports scholarships for YHC's incredible students. More than 95 percent of YHC's students receive financial support, so this is a gift that will make a true impact. The class has three years to meet its goal, and so far, they have raised more than \$38,000. Thank you, Class of 1969!



The Clay Dotson Open included two flights in the morning and two flights in the afternoon. The following teams walked away with first-place honors across the four flights:

- Doug Adams, Robert Dumas, Trent Rich and Ricky Tanner
- Chance Luc, John Luc, Rae Luc and Tony Luc
- Brian Herzog, Debra Patterson, '76, Wade Patterson and Michael Willard
- Kirk Hatherly, Frank Leatherwood, Mark O'Connor, '81, and Jason Rhinehardt

Teams with three or more YHC alumni qualified for the Tom Forkner, Sr. Alumni Challenge. The winning team included:

• Charlie Butler, '69, David Gurley, '69, Joe Lashley and Jerry Waller, '69

Winners of the Longest Drive competition included:

- · Aaron Ackermon
- Jim "Coach" Roper

Winners of the Closest to the Pin competition included:

- Mark Stancil
- Adam Houser

"In addition to the golfers, we're fortunate to have the generous support of businesses and families who believe in the mission of Young Harris College and contribute to the Clay Dotson Open to support student scholarships," said Vice President for Advancement Mark Dotson, '88. "For the 2019 tournament, Diamond Sponsors included Brasstown Valley Resort, Sodexo and United Community Bank. Gold Sponsors included adidas, Follett Higher Education Group, Padgett Group and the family of Tom Forkner, Sr. We're very grateful for their support."

The 2020 Clay Dotson Open will be held on Monday, May 18. For more information, contact Vice President for Advancement Mark Dotson, '88, at (706) 379-5355 or mcdotson@yhc.edu.









# SPOTLIGHT ON ENDOWED GWUG

An endowment is a college's financial cornerstone—its core ability to fuel progress and provide support for students, faculty, academic programs and extracurricular opportunities. Young Harris College's endowment generates a steady stream of income in perpetuity that sustains its operations and activities. These funds are an irreplaceable source of stability, and their growth is critical to the ongoing success and financial wellbeing of YHC.

Donors who choose to create an endowment have an opportunity to support the College both during their lifetime and for generations to come. Many choose to establish an endowed fund to honor a loved one or to memorialize an important figure in their life, ensuring that their name and generosity will forever be a guiding force in the College's success.

YHC is very blessed to have many classes that have their own endowed scholarships. One of the more recent classes to start an endowment is the Class of 1966. What began as a gift of \$17,000 has grown to almost \$40,000 in just three years.

Endowed funds require a minimum of \$25,000 with three years to reach that amount. The Class of 1966 reached that amount and has almost doubled it in less than three years. YHC is very thankful for our generous alumni, and we love to see them come together as a class to support their alma mater.

Learn more about planned giving at yhc.giftlegacy.com.



# Daucing the Night Away FOR A GREAT CAUSE

On Friday, April 26, Young Harris College hosted The Big Dance to raise scholarship funds for more than 200 students from eight surrounding counties: Fannin, Gilmer, Pickens, Rabun, Towns and Union counties in Georgia, and Cherokee and Clay counties in North Carolina. Approximately 240 community members attended the event, which raised more than \$10,000 for the Local Scholarship Campaign.

"We know the impact that scholarship dollars have on our local students," said David and Sherry Bubeck of Blairsville, Georgia, who helped sponsor and plan The Big Dance. "Community participation gives a strong signal that our counties support their local students and value their education at YHC. Plus, participants had the opportunity to mix and mingle with friends, listen and dance to a phenomenal band, and enjoy a fun, rewarding and memorable evening."

A special thank you goes out to sponsors of The Big Dance, including the Bubecks, Mountainside Parcel and Post, Anderson Financial Services, and Impact Wealth Builder.

# YHC RENAMES THE LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP CAMPAIGN TO HONOR

### Bob, '59, and Carol Head, '59

This past year, YHC lost two devoted supporters of the Local Scholarship Campaign (LSC). Bob, '59, and Carol Head, '59, of Blairsville, Georgia, were loyal alumni of the College and active community members. The Heads embodied the spirit of the LSC and gave back to the mountain communities that supported their growth. In recognition of their commitment to our local students, YHC is excited to announce that we renamed the LSC the Bob and Carol Head Local Scholarship Campaign. This fund will continue to support students in North Georgia and Western North Carolina as they pursue higher education at Young Harris College. Community ambassadors will work with the College to encourage not only financial support of our local students, but also personal support as they complete their degrees at YHC.

For more information, please contact Director of Annual Giving Mackenzie Harkins at (706) 379-5318 or mharkins@yhc.edu.

# WHAT'S AN IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER?

If you are 70½ or older, you may be interested in a way to lower the income and taxes from your individual retirement account (IRA) withdrawals, while also helping YHC further its mission to educate, inspire and empower students. An IRA Charitable Rollover is a way you can do both. With an IRA Charitable Rollover, you can:

- · Avoid taxes on transfers of up to \$100,000 from your IRA to our organization
- · Satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year
- · Reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions
- · Make a gift that is not subject to the deduction limits on charitable gifts
- · Help further the work and mission of Young Harris College

To start an IRA Charitable Rollover, contact your IRA plan administrator to learn how to make a gift from your IRA to YHC. Your IRA funds will be directly transferred to the College to help us continue our important work. Please note that IRA Charitable Rollover gifts do not qualify for a charitable deduction.

If you want your gift to be used for a specific purpose or if you have any questions about an IRA Charitable Rollover, contact Director of Development Paul Summer at (706) 379-5237 or phsummer@yhc.edu. You can also find helpful information at yhc.giftlegacy.com.



# Join the College's Premier Annual Giving Recognition Circle

The 1886 Young Harris Society recognizes those who give at leadership levels to Young Harris College. Its members are alumni and friends who believe strongly in the mission of YHC and annually contribute \$1,000 or more for various projects and programs. They are committed to helping YHC succeed, and they give generously to ensure that it does.

Members of the 1886 Young Harris Society are kept informed of College successes through personal communication from President Van Horn and College leadership. Society members are provided with several opportunities to engage with the College, including private dinners and special events on campus and around the country.

Unrestricted and restricted gifts of \$1,000 or more made during the College's fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) qualify you for 1886 Young Harris Society membership. Your gifts may be made with one payment or by multiple payments. Gifts are not directed to the Society, but instead to the College and its various programs.

The 1886 Young Harris Society is the College's premier annual giving recognition circle. To join, please contact YHC's Director of Annual Giving Mackenzie Harkins at (706) 379-5318 or mharkins@yhc.edu.

### **CLASS NOTES**

As provided to the College from August 2018 - July 2019

**Share your news with other Young Harris College alumni and friends.**Send achievements, announcements and photos to **alumni@yhc.edu** or submit them online at **yhc.edu/alumni/contact-information**.

### 1950s



Sylvia Hutchinson, '58, professor emerita of higher education, received the President's Medal at the University of Georgia in January 2019. This award recognizes extraordinary contributions of individuals who are not current employees of UGA and who have supported students and academic programs, advanced research, and inspired community leaders to enhance the quality of life of citizens in Georgia.

## 1960s

Glen David Hunter, '64, released his book "One Mountain Top Experience After Another: A Half Century Young Harris College Retrospective."

If you are interested in purchasing Hunter's book, contact him at (229) 524-6153.

Jimmy and Ruth Woolley Sapp, '67, Linda and Jack Maguire, '67, and Ruth and Jim Mason recently traveled together on the Regal Princess for a sevennight Caribbean cruise.



Mike, '67, and Luella Ledford, '68, ran the 2018 Peachtree Road Race. It was Luella's 38th consecutive year and Mike's 30th year running in the race.



Class of '68 members met for lunch at Luna's in Gainesville, Georgia.

### 1970s



Rev. David C. Johnson, '71, climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro in September 2018.

**Darlene Collum Carter**, '74, is working on her 10th

year at Western Plastics, Inc. in Calhoun, Georgia. She is a purchasing/ logistics manager for a multimillion dollar film/foil converter.

Mikel Sutton Vann,
'76, serves as president
of the Master Gardener
Volunteers of Cobb
County (MGVOCC) with
the University of Georgia
Cooperative Extension.
MGVOCC volunteers
more hours than any other
master gardener program
in Georgia.

# 1980s





Charlotte Headrick is the former head of the YHC Department of Theatre. She recently went to visit a few of her former YHC students in Texas. The first picture is Jeff Jolly, '80, Janie Breor, '81, and Headrick. The second picture is John Singleton,





On Christmas Eve, Rev. Fred Whitley, '66, suffered a stroke, but he received rapid treatment and excellent medical care. After four days in the hospital, he was released and is at home in a cardiologist's care. This "stroke of luck," as he calls it, left no permanent damage and made him aware of a heart condition he knew nothing about. Prayers, cards (P. O. Box 267, Young Harris, GA 30582) and emails (revdoc@windstream. net) are welcome. More recently, "Rev" used the theatrical skills he honed at YHC to dress up as Benjamin Franklin and deliver a sermon at the "Church Without Walls" in celebration of Independence Day.

'82, Headrick and Jeff Jolly. Janie Breor is the theatre director at Anna High School in Anna, Texas. John Singleton is the director of international studies at Texas Christian University. Jeff Jolly is a senior specialist for employee engagement at Southwest Airlines.

Sharon Seagraves Foster, '85, retired in 2018 after 30 years of teaching in the Madison County School District. Foster taught 3rd and 4th graders in the same elementary school she attended as a child, Danielsville Elementary School, in Madison County, Georgia.

William Jefferson Whatley, '88, married Thomas Bullington in February 2018.

# 1990s

Mark Hodges, '91, is now the director of marketing and communications for R. D. Brown Contractors, located in North Augusta, South Carolina. The company is a commercial and industrial builder in the growing Augusta area.

Eartha Lee Wiggins, '94, wrote a book, "Fleeing the Country: Rural Alaska Through the Eyes of a Child." The book is available on Amazon.

The book features family members and YHC alumni, including Linda Beaver, '68, John Charles Berry, '90, and Corinne Beaver, '40.

Lynda Anne Ray Wallace, '96, married on November 22, 2005, and gave birth to a girl, Olivia Frances, on December 7, 2015.

Brandy Cochran Stegall, '96, and her husband, Carl, welcomed Jacob Alan Wendell Stegall to the world on August 20, 2017.



Amy Stavely Dudich, '99, and Todd Dudich announced the birth of their third child, Lilah Louise Dudich, on June 27, 2018.

# 20009



In January 2019, Jason Norton, '02, an independent LPL financial



Class of '64 Book Club members at Lake Hartwell in September.



Timothy C. Tennent, '79, serves as president of Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky, where he's been since July 2009. Dr. Tennent was previously the professor of world missions and Indian studies at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Ordained in The United Methodist Church in 1984, he has pastored churches in Georgia and pastored in several of the largest churches in New England. Since 1989, he has taught annually as an adjunct professor at the New Theological College in Dehra Dun, India. He is a frequent conference speaker around the world, including in numerous countries in Asia, Africa and Europe. Dr. Tennent received his Master of Divinity from Gordon-Conwell, a Master of Theology from Princeton Theological Seminary and a doctorate from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. He also is a 2008 graduate of a three-year mentor project in Academic Leadership sponsored by the Lilly endowment. Dr. Tennent is the author of numerous books and articles. His books include "Building Christianity on Indian Foundations," "Christianity at the Religious Roundtable," "Theology in the Context of World Christianity" and "Invitation to World Missions: A Trinitarian Missiology for the 21st Century."

advisor at Norton Financial in Carrollton, Georgia, was recognized as a top LPL financial advisor and named to LPI's Chairman's Club. This premier award is presented to less than 5 percent of the firm's approximately 16,000 advisors nationwide.

Kirk Shook, '05, was recently appointed by Georgia Governor Brian Kemp as the Executive Director of the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission (GNPEC). Shook taught for 12 years at North Oconee High School in Bogart, Georgia, and began his work at GNPEC in February.



Jennifer Dickey, '06, married Josh Dickey on August 19, 2017. Nora Rae was born December 23, 2017. In May 2019, Jennifer graduated with a master's degree in clinical mental health counseling from Richmont Graduate University.



Clayton Franklin, '08, and his wife, Allyson, announced the birth of their son, Chandler Franklin, born November 27, 2018.



Alex, '07, and Ashlea Fairchild and big sister Knallie Reese Fairchild welcomed Jack Wiley Fairchild on August 5, 2018.



Ben, '09, and Katlyn, '09, Thacker announced the birth of their daughter, Kinley Thacker, born July 3, 2018.

### 2010s



Audrey Ashworth Mathis, '12, married Christoper "Thad" Mathis on April 5, 2019.

Caleb Paul, '13, was named the Union County Middle School Teacher of the Year for 2018-2019.

#### Amber Faith Allen Jones, '14, is loving her new career as an environmental health specialist in Hayesville, North Carolina.

Maia Corinne Price, '15, currently lives in Arden, North Carolina. She graduated from Brenau University with a Master of Science degree in Organizational Leadership in May 2018.

On December 8, 2018, Kellan Burrell, '15, and Madison Perdue, '15, were married after 6 years of being together.

Ashley Davenport, '15, graduated from the University of Georgia's College of Veterinary Medicine in May 2019.



Upon graduation, Ashley accepted a positon as an equine veterinarian with Brandon Equine Medical Center in Brandon, Florida. She is completing a one-year internship to further her knowledge in equine medicine, surgery, and emergency and critical care. She hopes to continue her education after completion of her internship and specialize in surgery or sports medicine and rehabilitation.



Megan Elizabeth (Fisette) Wang, '16, married Yuxiong Wang of Harding University on December 29, 2017, in Savannah, Georgia.



Stephanie Mills Seus,
'16, married Michael
Seus on April 6, 2019, in
Bainbridge, Georgia. YHC
friends and alums in the
wedding party included
Breann Lindsey, '16, Leah
Cheshier, '16, and MaryEllen Norwood.



Across the Decades
Three alums show their
YHC pride during Spirit
Week at New Hope
Middle School in Dalton,
Georgia. Pictured from
left to right are Amanda
Yarbrough Marti, '93,
Eria Vali Summey, '97,
and Sarah Gossett, '18.





**Thad Thompson**, '11, was appointed to the Georgia Student Finance Commission Board of Commissioners in May 2019. Thompson is a proud Georgian and lifelong resident of Norcross. He is married to Emily, and they welcomed their first child, Mary Frances, on November 28, 2018. A graduate of Young Harris College and Georgia College, Thompson runs a financial planning practice with his best friend and his wife. In addition to serving on several local boards, Thompson is the president of the Georgia College Young Alumni Council and serves on the Young Harris College Young Alumni Council. He has been named one of the Top Financial Advisors Under 40 in Atlanta.

### **Obituaries**

### Jack Brinkley, '49 | Dec. 22, 1930 - Jan. 23, 2019

A graduate and champion debater from Young Harris College, Jack Brinkley served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. He was on combat crew training as a pilot at Fort Benning's Lawson Field with orders to go to Korea, but the war ended. He later became an instructor pilot in the C-119 flying boxcar.

He then attended the University of Georgia School of Law and entered the practice of law in Columbus, Georgia, with the firm of Young, Hollis and Mosely, and later with Coffin and Brinkley. He was admitted to the District of Columbia Bar and the Supreme Court of the United States Bar.

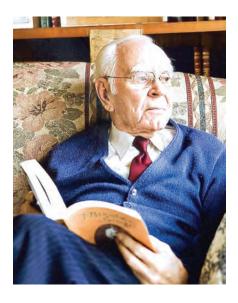
He served in the General Assembly of Georgia for two one-year terms (1965 to 1966), where he was chairman of the Local Affairs Committee. In 1966, he was elected to U.S. Congress from the 3rd District of Georgia at

age 35 and served for eight terms before retiring in 1983. During his last term, he was chairman of the Military Construction Subcommittee.

Constituent service was important to Brinkley and his staff in Washington, and he was known for coming down hard and with persistence for citizens faced with the sometimes heavy hand of bureaucracy. He placed emphasis on attendance and seldom missed a vote or quorum call.

He was a Civitan for 50 years, a Master Mason for 50 years, an attorney for 50 years, a Christian for all of his life—baptized at Betts' Mill Pond when he was almost 10 years old—and practiced the requirements of Micah to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with thy God. He faithfully took his family to Edgewood Baptist Church and taught Sunday school there for many years, then served the Lord at Evangel Temple until his death. He will be remembered for his campaign promise, "To remember who I am, where I'm from, and who sent me." He kept his promise.

The above article is an excerpt of Brinkley's obituary from the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer in Columbus, Georgia.



### Dr. Raymond Cook, '38 | July 19, 1919 – June 29, 2019

Dr. Raymond Cook, 99, of Valdosta, Georgia, died at his residence. He was born in Thomson, Georgia. He grew up and attended the public schools in Harlem, Georgia. He earned an A.A. degree from Young Harris College, an M.A. degree from the University of Georgia and a Ph.D. from Emory University. Upon receiving his doctorate in 1953, he became the first person to earn a doctorate in English from Emory. He did additional graduate work at Duke University and the University of North Carolina.

Dr. Cook taught in several public schools until World War II, when he served as an officer in the Naval Air Service. Following his service, he served as a professor of English at Emory University, the University of Florida and Georgia State University. In the early 1960s, he was appointed as Fulbright Lecturer in American Literature at the University of Shiraz in Iran. In 1962, he was American Coordinator for "Operation Rovan," a worldwide project for rebuilding the town of Rovan, Iran, which had been destroyed in a great earthquake.

In 1964, he became president of Young Harris College, a position he served in for two years. He resigned to become the chairman of the English department and the Division of Humanities at Valdosta State University. He retired as Professor Emeritus of English from VSU in 1984.

Dr. Cook was married to Mary Margaret Wilson of Savannah from 1945 until her death in 1994. In 1995, Dr. Cook married Dr. Elisabeth Mays Cook of West Palm Beach, Florida. They were married for 20 years prior to her death in 2015.

Dr. Cook belonged to several literary and scientific societies and was the author of numerous articles on such literary figures as John Donne, Robert Frost, Walt Whitman, Geoffrey Chaucer and Jane Austen, as well as other articles about the relationship of science and literature. He was also the author of five books, including the biography of Byron Herbert Reece, the Georgia poet. His long-time hobbies included writing, amateur radio and the restoration of antique automobiles. Dr. Cook was an active member of First United Methodist Church and served in various capacities over the years, including as a Sunday school teacher for 40-plus years. He was a wonderful husband, father and grandfather and will be greatly missed.

The above article is an excerpt of Dr. Cook's obituary from the website of McLane Funeral & Cremation Services in Valdosta, Georgia. To view a tribute to Dr. Cook from U.S. Representative Buddy Carter, '77, please visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=gn1asmOrYfw.



### Dennis Hale | Aug. 14, 1938 – Feb. 13, 2019

Dennis Hale, 80, passed away at Brookdale in Macon, Georgia. He was born in Birmingham, Alabama, and attended the public schools there. Dr. Hale graduated from Birmingham Southern College in 1960. He earned a master's degree in 1962 and a doctorate in 1977 from Florida State University. His teaching career began at Young Harris College, where he taught from 1962 to 1966. He then went to Valdosta State University, where he served as a Spanish professor and department head. After 30 years at Valdosta State University, he retired in 1996. Dr. Hale moved to Macon in 2005 to be near his daughter and her family, whom he loved with all his heart. He was a devoted Alabama Crimson Tide and Atlanta Braves fan. He loved golfing, traveling, hiking, taking photographs and making videos. He was of the Methodist faith.



The above article is an excerpt of Hale's obituary from The Telegraph in Macon, Georgia.



### Todd Kimsey I Jan. 15, 1926 - April 27, 2019

Todd Kimsey of Hiawassee, Georgia, passed away at age 93. Kimsey enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served aboard his beloved USS Pasadena, stationed not far from shore at the Battle of Iwo Jima as a fire control man. Leaving the Navy in April 1946, Kimsey married his sweetheart, Hellen Herbert. They embarked on a journey filled with Kimsey's lifelong love for education, becoming teachers at the elementary and high school levels, and on to Young Harris College. In spite of his advanced studious intellect and many achievements, Kimsey was a very humble, humorous and generous man. He was a wonderful friend and teacher to everyone he met. Kimsey

was a longtime member of the American Legion Post #23. He is and will be missed by all who were blessed to know him. The above article is an excerpt of Kimsey's obituary from the website of Cochran Funeral Home & Crematory in Hiawassee, Georgia.

#### IN MEMORIAM

As reported to the College from August 2018 through June 2019

Mrs. Amanda Adair, '52 Aug. 25, 2018

Mr. Robert T. Atkinson, Jr., '82 Dec. 19, 2018

Mrs. Mary Barksdale, '60 Jan. 15, 2019

Mr. James C. Beighley Jan. 15, 2019

Mr. James Henry Bratton, Jr. Jan. 6, 2019

The Hon. Jack T. Brinkley, Sr., '49

Jan. 23, 2019

Ms. Mary J. Brown, '58 April 30, 2019

Ms. Jamie Beth Bryant, '96 Feb. 18, 2019

Mr. Arthur Lee Cagle, '76 Sept. 28, 2018

Mr. P. Nelson Chambliss, '61 Jan. 1, 2019

The Hon. Robert M. Channell, '62 Feb. 26, 2019

Mrs. Ptleene D. Chapman, '37 Feb. 25, 2019

**Dr. Raymond A. Cook, '38** June 29, 2019

Mrs. Rhonda L. Corso, '83 Dec. 8, 2018

Mr. Thomas William Cronic, '54 May 18, 2019

**Dr. Richard H. Davy, '62** Jan. 31, 2019

Mr. Charles Dawson June 2, 2019

Mr. Larry R. Deberry, '75 March 13, 2019

Mr. Derrick Lee Dendy, '12 May 25, 2019

Mr. William M. Dorsey, '64 Jan. 9, 2019

Mrs. Kit Dunaway, '42 Nov. 1, 2018

Mrs. Marsha S. Elliott Sept. 7, 2018

Ms. Sara Fleming, '46 May 24, 2019

Mr. C. Daniel Giles, Jr., '63
Jan. 8, 2019

Mr. James Bill Green, '58 June 19, 2019

Mr. Vaughn E. Green, '59 May 12, 2019

Ms. Anita Chloe Grusenmeyer Aug. 30, 2018

**Dr. Dennis L. Hale** Feb. 13, 2019

Mrs. Carol F. Head, '59 Oct. 23, 2018

Mr. William T. Henry, '58 Jan. 28, 2019

Mrs. Rebecca D. Hollady Nov. 11, 2018

Mr. Henry J. Hughes, '57 May 23, 2019

Mrs. Margaret A. Huguley, '58 May 25, 2019

Mrs. Mary Ann Johnson, '59 March 9, 2019

**Mr. Todd Kimsey** April 27, 2019

Mr. Jerry Landers, '54 Feb. 21, 2019

Mr. Victor S. Langdon, '69 Aug. 10, 2018

Ms. Leah Lee, '59 May 13, 2019

Mr. James H. Marlowe, '52 Dec. 12, 2018

Mrs. Frances Mathis, '43 Nov. 25, 2018

Mr. Robert McCain March 26, 2019

Mr. Robert A. McGwier, '57 Dec. 8, 2018

Mrs. Cynthia Miller-Ziegler, '75 Dec. 17, 2018

Mr. Patrick M. Mobley, '80 May 2, 2018

Mr. Mark T. Mote, '76 March 24, 2019

Mrs. Beverly A. Owenby, '70 Dec. 17, 2018

Mrs. Phyllis F. Pardue, '67 Oct. 30, 2018

Mrs. Jeanne Pleasants March 3, 2019

Ms. Allison K. Russell, '89 May 1, 2019 Mr. Morris W. Shelnutt, '65 Nov. 25, 2018

Mr. Robert Elwin Squires, '58 Oct. 7, 2018

Ms. Joanna Elizabeth Steed, '96 Sept. 5, 2018

Mrs. Marilyn Thomas, '68 Oct. 27, 2018

Mr. William A. Tomlin, '52 April 9, 2019

Mr. Robert E. Towers, '70 Aug. 1, 2018

Ms. Frances G. Turner, '61 June 21, 2019

Mr. Don Wade, '61 Oct. 6, 2018

Mrs. Esther Westbrook, '40 Feb. 8, 2019

Mrs. Marjorie S. Wilson, '46 June 24, 2019

Mr. Tommy M. Young, '61

Jan. 30, 2019



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